

Amendments to the Claims:

Please add new claims 35-37 and amend claims 1, 3, 21, 22, 25-27 and 29.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of specifically detecting the *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein SEQ ID NO:1 in a test sample, the method comprising:

contacting a test sample with a first antibody that specifically binds to *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the first antibody forms a complex with the surface array protein but does not form a complex with protein from non-anthrancis other Bacillus species present in the test sample; and

detecting the complex with a labeled second antibody that binds to the complex, wherein the detection of the complex is indicative of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in the test sample.

2. (Canceled)

~~2~~ ~~3.~~ (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the *B. anthracis* strain present in the test sample is encapsulated.

4. (Canceled)

~~3~~ ~~5.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced antibody.

~~4~~ ~~6.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~5~~, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced polyclonal antibody.

~~5~~ ~~7.~~ (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

6 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is collected from a site of suspected or threatened anthrax contamination.

7 9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the test sample is collected using a cyclonic collection device.

8 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to contacting with the first antibody.

9 11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

10 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

11 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on the solid support prior to contacting the first antibody with the test sample.

12 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 10,000 cfu/ml.

13 15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 5,000 cfu/ml.

14 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 1,800 cfu/ml.

17-18. (Canceled)

15 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second antibody binds to a different epitope of the surface array protein than does the first antibody.

20. (Canceled)

16 21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~20~~, wherein the label of the labeled second antibody detectable label is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, a fluorophore, a dye, an enzyme, and a chemiluminescent label.

17 22. (Currently amended) A kit for detecting the presence or absence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a sample, the kit comprising:

a first antibody that specifically binds to the surface array protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 but does not bind to protein from non-anthracis other Bacillus species; and
a label.

18 23. (Original) The kit of claim 22, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

24. (Canceled)

19 25. (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

20 26. (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

21 27. (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the first or second antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.

22 28. (Original) The kit of claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the kit further comprises written instructions for using the kit to determine whether a test sample contains *B. anthracis*.

23 29. (Currently amended) The kit according to claim ~~22~~ 23, wherein the kit further comprises a positive control that comprises a polypeptide that comprises an antigenic determinant of a *B. anthracis* surface array protein, wherein the antigenic determinant binds to said first antibody.

30-32. (Canceled.)

24 33. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises a second antibody which binds the surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

25 34. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 22, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

26 35. (New) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

27 36. (New) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

28 37. (New) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.